

The Borough of Westwood has approved an engineering study by Boswell/McClave Engineering to review the operations of the Woodcliff Lake and Oradell reservoirs and dams and waterway management practices along the Pascack Brook. This study will be completed by mid-October after which it will be provided to 14 municipalities for review by their engineering staff for comment and to determine the completeness and accuracy of the study. Once the final document is officially presented to the governing body, a public meeting will be held to review the findings. It is our hope that this study will provide us with a solid foundation based upon sound engineering principals which we can utilize to initiate changes regarding dam and waterway management in our region.

Bergen SWAN has prepared an interesting and informative article entitled "Addressing the Role of Impervious Surfaces in Flood Control for the Pascack Valley". The article details one of the major factors contributing to the excessive flooding we experience, impervious coverage. The article suggests ways that everyone can address the over 25 percent impervious coverage in Pascack Valley by implementing green infrastructures. The full text is on our website.

"Blue Acres" is a program that was initiated by the Federal Government in 1993 in response to repeated flooding issues. It offers a means by which a home can be demolished and the property returned to its natural state or a means by which a home can be elevated above the 100 year flood stage. The Borough is in the process of investigating what role the Borough would play and what is available to its residents under the Blue Acres Program.

Finally, Councilwoman Waneck was appointed to a Bergen County Flood Advisory Board along with representatives from Oakland, New Milford, Hillsdale, Saddle Brook and other towns in Bergen County. This Board which was created by Freeholder Driscoll, has set as its first priority the appropriation of funds from the State to help Bergen County.